

Date: 02/04/2009

Committee: House Education/House
Labor & Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0938 RELATING TO CAFETERIA WORKERS.

Purpose of Bill: Changes the employment period for cafeteria workers employed on or after July 1, 2009, from twelve to ten months.

Department's Position: The Department supports this bill. It provides that cafeteria workers hired on or after July 1, 2009 are 10-month employees, with their salary pro-rated over 12 months. This arrangement presently applies to teachers and school food service (cafeteria) managers. Existing cafeteria workers will remain 12-month employees.

The gradual conversion of cafeteria workers from 12-month positions to 10-month positions will slow the rate of increase of our food service costs without affecting current employees. We expect the 10-month positions will reduce the need for substitutes; 12-month cafeteria workers may take their vacation at any time, necessitating the hiring of substitutes if the cafeteria is operating. Ten-month cafeteria workers, like teachers, will not take vacation while school is in session.

The rationale for 12-month positions for cafeteria workers is that, while school is not in session, the workers are available to deep clean the school kitchens and assist the school custodians. The actual utilization of cafeteria workers for these purposes has been inconsistent. School administrators will be able to call back 10-month cafeteria workers while school is not in session if needed.